



AWMS 2020 AGM

DRAFT MINUTES

AGM scheduled for 4:30pm, Wednesday 9th December, Online Meeting (Zoom).

Attendees: Konnie Gebauer, Tracey Kreplins, Terry Korn, Trish Flemming, Sebastian Comte, Andrew Bengsen, Tarnya Cox, Tom Newsome, Stuart Dawson, Jannico Kelk, Donnell Hole, David Berman, Kyla Johnstone, Carleton Frances, Deane Smith, Lydia Uddstrom, Margarita Medina, Ben Allen, Justin O’Riain, Shania Watson, Ganesh Pant, Peter Adams.

Apologies: John-Michael Stewart, Shannon Dundas, Rebecca French, Oliver Orgill.

1. Minutes of previous AGM, December 2019, Darwin, NT.

Previous minutes circulated prior to meeting.

Sebastian moved to accept the minutes, Tracey seconded.

2. President’s report (Tarnya Cox)

Thank you for attending this year’s AGM. I hope you are all enjoying the conference so far.

While Covid-19 resulted in a busier year professionally than I anticipated when planning my year in January, it has been a quiet year as far as presidential duties go. My busy year took me away from presidential duties a couple of times throughout the year and I would like to thank our vice president, Tom Newsome, for holding down the fort during my absence.

I will be stepping down as president at this AGM and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members for their support and for their participation in the committee. I would encourage any member to do a stint on the executive committee. It is a great way to contribute to the Society and to get involved. The Committee, and the Society only survives because of member participation.

Finally, I would like to make a special thank you to Konnie, our conference liaison officer extraordinaire, for stepping up to the challenge of putting on a virtual conference. I really don’t know what we would do without you Konnie, so thank you for all that you do each and every year.

Once again, thank you for letting me be president of this great Society and I look forward to seeing you all again face-to-face in the not too distant future.

Tarnya.

General comments:

- We have awarded two awards this year. Details of who won to come.
- Ben moves to formally thank Tarnya for her time as president of AWMS.

3. Correspondence (Melissa Snape)

- a. Invitation to comment on draft horse management plan (Linda Groom)
- b. Invitation to contribute to the development of the SOE report 2021 (DAWE)

- c. Email requesting confirmation that AWMS supports the kangaroo harvest industry (Animal Justice Party) - (no reply given)
- d. Three requests for expert input into media/comms (comic on 1080, post-fire photography, and a documentary on kangaroos)
 - i. Ben got in touch re: 1080 comic, the journalist was already in touch with other experts in the area.
- e. Multiple requests for information on awards
- f. Multiple requests to circulate opportunities for scholarships/projects to AWMS membership

4. Treasurer's Report (Sebastien Comte)

Based on the status of the accounts on the 30/6/2020 the AWMS financial position is keeping the positive trend of the last three years. The total assets increased from \$246,494.61 in FY2019 to \$268,284.41. A full breakdown is below.

Current Assets	2017\$	2018\$	2019\$	2020\$
CBA chq a/c	77,372.90	85,551.32	50,037.30	82,464.42
CBA term deposit	17,051.75	17,641.78	67,844.78	68,637.95
CBA Transaction a/c	1,357.06	2,873.21	4,327.15	1,738.28
PAYPAL a/c	11,034.22	8,786.82	4,255.38	5,836.95
CBA public fund	105,600.00	125,030.00	120,030.00	109,606.81
Total Current Assets	212,415.92	239,883.13	246,494.61	268,284.41

Note that the total current assets above includes the public fund, which is audited separately (total \$109,606.81) – the remaining balance is \$158,677.60.

Total income in the 2020FY was \$89,585.98. Expenses totalled \$55,769.01 which provided a net profit of \$33,816.97. This profit margin was about double of that received in 2019FY and equivalent to that of 2018FY.

INCOME	2017\$	2018\$	2019	2020
Refunds	-	(2,480.00)	(1,691.37)	(1,433.00)
Publishing Income	-	1,269.43	319.01	253.87
Conference Income	66,530.95	98,491.00	93,706.00	79,209.90
Membership Fees	10,317.22	16,490	12,050.00	10,710.00
Workshop Income	-	570.00	-	-
Interest	13.72	590.03	203.00	845.21
TOTAL INCOME	78,861.89	114,930.46	104,586.64	89,585.98

EXPENSES				
Audit	4,125.00	3,385.00	2,385.00	2,486.00
Advertising	-	1,123.75	2,480.78	1,613.29
Awards	2,755.41	7,546.40	5,524.71	6,399.21
Bank Charges & Paypal	596.63	2,217.23	2,224.15	1,821.89
Conference expenses	45,201.91	67,122.68	72,757.33	42,112.74
General expenses	442.88	37.88	-	-
Insurance	805.11	843.00	871.08	909.56
Member Clicks	2,478.43	2,863.60	-	-
Printing and Stationary	1,000	91.40	3,708.05	-
Subscriptions	-	103.17	66.00	-
Telephone/Internet	-	512.74	208.06	426.32
TOTAL EXPENSES	57,405.37	85,846.85	90,255.16	55,769.01
NET PROFIT	19,456.52	29,083.61	14,361.48	33,816.97

Major changes over the last year have included:

- Change of all signatures on both corporate bank account and Public funds.
- Very tedious process due to the need of each member to sign all document in person. Problem of not being in the same location=> different branches need to communicate.
- The process with CBA was very complicated as it appeared that most documents hadn't been updated for several years.
- The process needs to be done each time a signature is changed

Current signatures on the bank accounts:

Society bank account:

President, Vice President, Treasurer, Conference liaison officer

Public fund:

Public officer, President, Vice President, Treasurer.

Term deposits:

Both funds need to be reinvested now

=> 10 months investment optimal starting January 2021 => 0.85% interest instead of 0.1% today

=> Public fund term deposit is not sustainable => more expenses than incomes

Public fund tax money withheld:

The bank did not have the ABN or TFN stored on their records. Therefore, the benefit from the deposit fund was pre-taxed => \$524.00

- Information updated and should not happen again.
- I have requested the money to be refunded from the tax office

Fraudulent transactions:

Tarnya's credit card was hacked: a total of \$774.14 of international transactions were done in May-June 2019.

Those appear in the financial audit but have been recovered in September, as mentioned in the auditor's letter.

Awards:

There is very little information and traceability for the different awards.

We need someone to keep records:

- Award name
- Award amount
- Source of award money
- Name of awardees, expected reports and presentations
- Future payments upon completion

Tarnya moved to accept the president's report, Terry Korn seconded.

General comments:

- Decrease in conference income from 2019
- Decrease in expenses for 2020 conference
- Decreased membership income over time
- Need a process of tracking expenditure on awards
 - Tarnya has some of this information to hand and was planning on creating a spreadsheet to track this info.
- Terry Korn thanked Sebastian for his great efforts
- Discussion around issues of having to update signatories every time we get a new treasurer or president - very arduous. For discussion at next GM.

5. Membership Secretary Report (Shannon Dundas)

2020 has thrown everyone a few curve balls. I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy but still managing to get a bit of time out in the field. I am chasing down malleefowl this week so won't be able to make it to the virtual AGM this year.

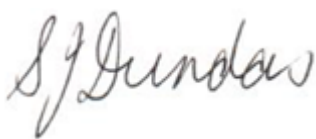
Our membership numbers have decreased again from last year. The current membership numbers stand at 159.

The breakdown is:

Year	2020
Full	90
Student	39
Institutional	9
Retired/unemployed	16
Lifetime	5
Totals	159

This compares to 183 for 2019 and 230 for 2018. Given the conference this year will be a remote free event available for members and non-members, unfortunately we didn't get the usual boost in numbers associated with new members looking to benefit from the discounted conference fees.

Fingers crossed 2021 will be an improvement on 2020! Stay safe



Shannon Dundas

Membership Secretary

General comments:

- Decrease in membership over the last two years likely due to two difficult conferences; 2019 was impacted by drought/fires and being in NT (expensive to get to) and 2020 had to go online due to covid and so was free (no incentive to become a member).
- Short discussion about membership benefits. Mel was supposed to circulate a survey to members to find out what they wanted to see as membership benefits but has not yet done so. Suggestions that it would be good for the committee to take better advantage of opportunities to comment/contribute to various opportunities such as the SoE report, horse management plans etc (Peter Adams). Andy noted that it was hard enough to progress

position statements which were adopted by consensus, let alone comment on processes with short turn around time - but agreed that we should identify improved process for future.

- Ben and Tarnya have been talking to CSIRO regarding member access or discounted fees with publications. Offer regarding Wildlife Research but preference was for something less specific, so discussions should be resumed in 2021.

6. Position Statement Report (Andrew Bengsen)

- I've been a fairly idle position statement coordinator this year. I'll be happy if someone more enthusiastic would like to take over.
- In May I circulated Dave Berman's draft feral horse position statement to the Committee, and also to Mike Braysher, given his interest and experience in the issue. Extensive modifications were suggested. I haven't progressed much further with this because I haven't been able to get a good handle on the current state of knowledge, but I'll collate the feedback to date and get back to Dave in the next week.
- The statement of Indigenous use of wildlife is due for review. I plan ask Rachel Paltridge to have a look, but I'm happy to take any other suggestions.

7. Public fund (Terry Korn)

Australasian Wildlife Management Society

(Virtual) Annual General Meeting 9 December 2020 for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

Public Fund Management Report

Committee Members:

Terry Korn PSM – Chair

Dr Tarnya Cox

Dr Will Batson

Dr Lyn Nelson (secretary)

Dr Greg Baxter

Committee Meetings for the year.

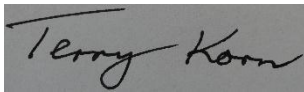
The committee held one meeting for the year (28 May 2020) because the level of business required only one meeting.

Financial Situation

Balance at the 1 July 2019	- \$120,030
Income (interest)	- \$1,160.81
Expenditure (awards)	- \$11,584
BALANCE at 30 June 2020	- \$109,606.81 (of which \$100,636.81 is in an investment account)

Chair comments:

1. The AWMS committee is reminded that when it selects projects or awards on which public funds are to be spent it must communicate to the PFMC the details of the projects/awards to ensure the projects/awards comply with governance requirements. This is a safety check for the society.
2. I will be resigning as (a) Chair of the Public Fund Management Committee on 30 June 2021 and (b) Public Officer of the AWMS on 30 June 2021. The committee should source a new Public Officer, preferably from the ACT, over the next few months so I can introduce them to the role.
3. I thank the committee for its support during the year, especially Lyn Nelson who is secretary.



Terry Korn PSM

Chair Public Fund Management Committee and Public Officer

General comments:

- After standing in every AWMS position except secretary over 20-25 years, Terry will be stepping down from his official AWMS duties at the end of the 2020-21 financial year. He will be retiring as public officer and from the public fund committee.
- Tarnya formally thanked Terry for his tremendous efforts for AWMS over the years.

8. SAWMA liaison officer (Ben Allen)

Nothing much to report on due to Covid. Was hoping to give a great report on the 15 people who attended SAWMA 50th anniversary, but unfortunately the conference was totally postponed to September next year. This means that Dan is also staying on as SAWMA President and Kelly is remaining in the VP position (usually their succession plan would have had Kelly move to the president position after her 2 year term as VP).

- AWMS committee and membership agreed that this succession planning for the presidency is a good model we should adopt. Trish pointed out that this used to be the case, and so the new committee should review the constitution and make recommendations for future accordingly. A similar model for the treasury position was also encouraged.

In a normal year, Kelly (SAWMA VP) would have travelled to Australia this year to attend AWMS, and AWMS would have sent someone to SAWMA next year. Ben suggested that we let SAWMA know that AWMS is supportive of a two-way trade next year, with representative from each organisation attending the other's conference. This was agreed by those attending the AGM, with the proviso that it is consistent with health and travel advice and regulations at the time.

The Joan Southgate award was awarded to Kyla, she has completed her work and is back in Australia.

9. Student representative (John-Michael Stewart, Rebecca French)

Nothing to report from John-Michael Stewart. Has been a quiet year.

10. Other Business

Konnie says we need to decide soon if we are going to Dunedin for the 2021 conference or have somewhere in Australia. Consensus is that it would be safest to aim for a conference in Australia in a fairly covid safe state which is easily accessible to maximise attendance and thus societal income and membership base. Mel has offered to assist on an organising committee for the ACT.

Suggestion to increase Konnie's payment as conference liaison officer, in recognition of how much work this role is and her unwavering commitment to it. Consensus to double Konnie's fee to \$10,000 - moved by Ben, seconded by Terry. Supported unanimously. This figure was decided on with consideration of the uncertainty around future income, membership, capacity to hold conferences in person, and projected conference incomes. This fee should continue to be reviewed as necessary.

11. Election of Office bearers

Position	Nominees	Nominated	Seconded
President	None		
Secretary	Stu Dawson	Tarnya Cox	Mel Snape
NZ Student Rep	None		
AWMS Public Officer	None		
Assistant Treasurer	None		

Tom has agreed to act as AWMS president until the next AGM or until the committee is able to appoint someone else in the interim, in accordance with the constitution. AWMS will also need to appoint a new public officer, and also seek to find a NZ student representative and assistant treasurer.

Meeting close: 6 pm

Next AGM to be held 8th December, Canberra, Australia.